IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly, comprising:

a tailgate;

a sidewall; and

a torsion spring having a first leg attached to the sidewall and a second leg attached to the tailgate, such that the torsion spring is actuated in a winding direction as the tailgate is opened.

2. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein either the first leg, the second leg, or both legs of the torsion spring are removably attached.

3. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the torsion spring comprises about 2.5 coils.

4. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.

5. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the width of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.

6. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the torsion spring comprises a high-carbon steel.

7. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises about 1 percent carbon.

8. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises from about 0.96 to about 0.99 percent carbon.

9. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 42 to about 46 Rockwell C.

10. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 6, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 43 to about 45 Rockwell C.

11. (Original) A tailgate assembly, comprising:

a tailgate;

a sidewall;

a rod connected to the tailgate, such that the tailgate pivots about the rod to open and close; and

a torsion spring having coils around the rod and having a first leg attached to the sidewall and a second leg attached to the tailgate, such that the torsion spring is actuated in a winding direction as the tailgate is opened.

12. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein either the first leg, the second leg, or both legs of the torsion spring are removably attached.

13. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the torsion spring comprises about 2.5 coils.

14. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the thickness of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.

15. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the width of the torsion spring is at least about 3/16 of an inch.

16. (Original) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 11, wherein the torsion spring comprises a high-carbon steel.

17. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises about 1 percent carbon.

18. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel comprises from about 0.96 to about 0.99 percent carbon.

19. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 42 to about 46 Rockwell C.

20. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 16, wherein the high-carbon steel has a hardness from about 43 to about 45 Rockwell C.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly, comprising:

a tailgate having a hole;

a tailgate support having a hole; and

a torsion spring having a first leg inserted into the hole of the tailgate support and a second leg inserted into the hole of the tailgate, such that the torsion spring is actuated in a winding direction as the tailgate is opened.

25. (Previously Presented) A tailgate assembly according to Claim 24, wherein the tailgate support is a sidewall.